

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country. While some of the large providers have invested significant resources in building infrastructure, it does not make sense that redundant rights of way, infrastructure, etc should be the only way to develop competition. Government direction to force a reasonable sale of access to existing infrastructure seems to provide a reasonable way of providing return on investment and providing a measure of protection for consumers in the form of competition.